AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, to read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a basement membrane comprising a step of preparing ~~wherein cells having an ability to form a basement membrane are cultured on~~ a support structure with a sugar-chain coat having β-D-glucopyranosyl nonreducing end or 2-acetoamide-2-deoxy-β-D-glucopyranosyl non reducing end which can localize a receptor having an activity to accumulate basement membrane components onto a basal surface of the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane, and a step of culturing cells having an ability to form a basement membrane.

2. (Original) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1, wherein the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane are cultured on of a support structure with both opposite surfaces coated by a sugar chain.

3. (Original) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1, wherein a component secreted from the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane is used as a basement membrane component.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim [[4]] 1, wherein a sugar-chain coat is used, the sugar chain or a part of the sugar chain that binds to a receptor can be replaced by a basement membrane component.

6. (Original) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1, wherein the support structure with a sugar-chain coat is a support structure coated with a polymer having a sugar chain.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim [[7]] 1, wherein one or more types of polymers selected from PV-GlcNAc, PV-CA and PV-Lam is used as the polymer having a sugar chain.

9. (Currently amended) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1, wherein the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane are cocultured with fibroblasts or ~~their alternatives~~ Matrigel™.

10. (Original) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to any of claims 1 - 9, wherein the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane are cultured in the presence of one or more types of basement membrane components.

11. (Original) The method for preparing a basement membrane according claim 1, wherein the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane are cultured in the presence of TGF-β (transforming growth factor).

12. (Original) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1, wherein the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane are epithelial cells, endothelial cells or mesenchymal cells.

13. (Original) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1, wherein the cells and/or fibroblasts having an ability to form a basement membrane are basement membrane component-hyperexpressing cells into which genes of one or more types of a basement membrane component are transfected.

14. (Original) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1, wherein the support structure is a fibrous collagen.

15-67. (Canceled)

68. (New) A tissue model which can be obtained by the method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1.

69. (New) A test tissue kit including a tissue model which can be obtained by the method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1.